

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Vanya Castle
Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Mimi Wise
Terri Lamberti
Lisa Christie
Bob Dohn
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Diana Murray
Marcia Frank

Members Absent

Robin Jacobi
Ken Campbell
Cindy Ruszay
Melissa Marscin

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

Guest: David Chameli (Comic Exchange)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Lisa Christie, to approve the minutes of September 18, 2024, meeting. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian introduced David Chameli who will travel with his wife to France in January for the Comics exchange.

Lillian received a call a resident in Streamwood who advised that her mother used to live in Hoffman Estates and passed away recently. She left behind several French Books that the daughter wants to give away to the Commission. Lillian agreed to take them.

Debbie worked with Public Works to create a sign commemorating the Sister City of the Year award and it is now posted below the other sign along the driveway to Village Hall.

Lillian distributed a survey paper to all members to fill out to get their feedback about the French Evening (the survey is anonymous).

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

No report.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Signature Exchanges**

1) **Culinary/Bon Appétit**

The date of the exchange is April 19-26, 2025. There will be four girls, one boy, and two adults (Chef Sylvain and the English Teacher) from Angouleme. Lillian requested the preparation of three desserts for the Bon Appetit events. Jeff inquired about the availability of the usual preparation location at Tate & Lyle and Lillian will be discussing with them in the near future. The outings for the exchange need to be defined and discussed. The cooking class will take place at Village Hall. The potluck is tentatively scheduled for April 25 and the location is yet to be determined.

2) **Runners Exchange**

The date of the exchange to France is April 1-7, 2025 with the race taking place on April 5. Lisa has received some interest from 2 or 3 runners who might participate and she will continue to see if there are other candidates and will work on an informational flyer to be posted. Mimi and Lisa will make sure that the runners are experienced runners. They also discussed the T-shirt.

B. **Other Exchanges**

1) **Sports**

There will be 16 students participating in the soccer exchange here on April 8-15, 2025, and currently, there are 4 host families. Based on Bob Dohn's communication with Adam Fieldhouse, during their stay, they will have three games and several practices in between. The presentation on sustainability and the visit to the Police and Fire Departments are scheduled for April 9th. The potluck will be held at the Prince of Peace Church in Hoffman Estates on Sunday, the 13th at 5 PM, thanks to Terri Lamberti.

2) **Comic**

Terri Lamberti is now the chair of this committee. David Chameli was present during the meeting.

David Chameli's presentation on the evolution and history of Marvel and DC Comics has been officially approved in Angouleme. Lillian requested that his presentation be completed by the end of October so that Commission members can start translating it into French.

Landis Blair is working with his French publishers on how to ship his books to France for the event. He will also have some flyers that the Commission will mail. Contact needs to be made with Landis and David to determine how they can support each other's event.

C. **Special Projects**

Marcia Frank reported that the Marie Antoinette program is scheduled for Saturday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Village Hall. The event can accommodate up to 80 participants. It has been decided that lunch will be served as a buffet. Currently, there are 37 people registered.

Lilian and Marcia have determined that Committee members will pay \$10 to attend the Marie Antoinette program.

All members who volunteer to help are expected to arrive at 9:00 a.m.. Volunteers include Lillian, Mimi, Lisa, Robin, Fanja, Cindy

The date for the May/June 2025 program is yet to be decided, with a theme of either Jackie Kennedy or Monet.

D. **French Evening**

There was a lengthy discussion on the French Evening event. Overall, all Commission members agreed that the meal was the best we had in recent memory and Lillian thanked Jeff and the entire Commission who worked in the kitchen during the two days of prep and during the event. The Commission provided feedback on the baskets/gift certificates for the auction and many thought there were either too many competing items or they were not priced high enough to even cover the gift card included in them.

Debbie provided a preliminary draft of revenue/expenses of the event. There were 156 in attendance with 139 paid (117 @ \$65/pp and 22 @\$75/pp). Total revenue was \$15,686 with expenses totaling \$11,887 for a total profit of \$3,799. This equated to \$76.19 per person. In comparison, total profit from the 2023 event was \$7,114. Debbie also did a brief analysis of baskets sold and reported that only 5 gift baskets sold for more than the value listed. Six baskets had only 1 bid, 13 baskets had 2 bids and 16 baskets had 3 bids. Two baskets had 8 bids. There were nine baskets that sold for less than the gift card's worth that was included.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mimi Wise, seconded by Jill Wood-Naatz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Fanja Raoelijaona.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
6:30pm on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*